

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-19 are pending. Claims 1 and 11 are independent. Claims 1, 11, and 14 are amended. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed, and specifically at page 10 and figure 1.

No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Changes to the claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e) AND §103(a)

Claims 1 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,212,229 to Parulski et al. (hereinafter, merely "Parulski").

Claims 1-10 and 12-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Parulski in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,081,918 to Takemoto et al. (hereinafter, merely "Takemoto").

III. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“A digital still camera comprising:

a first converting circuit that receives image data of an image that is subjected to an automatic white balance correction and converts the image data according to a scene-reference color space format;

a temporary memory storing the image data for which tone correction is to be performed in [[a]] the scene-reference color space format” (Emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, Parulski relates to a system wherein existing computing and memory resources in an electronic camera are used to process an image for printing. Compensation may be done for variations in the printer characteristics and for different media types.

As understood by Applicants, Takemoto relates to an image processing apparatus that processes images by eliminating an effect of a tone characteristic.

First, the Office Action (see page 3) relies on sRGB format of Parulski to teach “image data according to a scene-reference color space format”, as recited in claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that sRGB is a standard color space and is distinct from Applicants’ claimed a scene-reference color space format. Therefore, Applicants submit that Parulski fails to disclose or suggest the above-identified features of claim 1.

Second, Applicants respectfully submit that nothing in Parulski has been found that teaches a first converting circuit receiving image data of an image that is subjected to an automatic white balance correction and converting image data according to a scene-reference color space format, as recited in claim 1. Applicants submit that Parulski fails to disclose or suggest the above-identified features of claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable.

Claim 11 is similar, or somewhat similar, in scope and is therefore patentable for similar, or somewhat similar, reasons.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

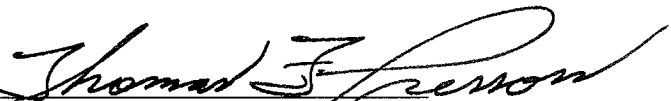
In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the references providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are in condition for allowance and request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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